



VISVA-BHARATI
Press Release of 21 st July, 2023

It is a matter of surprise that many in India and a few from abroad are determined to disprove Visva-Bharati's claim that Prof. Amartya Sen occupied 13 decimal of Visva-Bharati's land illegally as per the legally valid lease deed. Let us make it clear that even billions of people and whose who of the world support Prof. Sen's act, which can be inadvertent as well, Visva-Bharati shall not budge an inch. The land belongs to Visva-Bharati and Visva-Bharati is morally bound to reclaim the land which legally belongs to this great institution founded by a Nobel laureate and an illustrious son of mother India, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

Visva-Bharati would like to put this question to all even those who have made an indelible print in the world of academia. First, the *dharama* of a Vice Chancellor is to protect Visva-Bharati's property. In reclaiming Visva-Bharati's leasehold land, the Vice Chancellor is just discharging his responsibility. There is no force under the sun to restrain the Vice Chancellor from doing so because it is legally enforced as per the land deed at Visva-Bharati's possession. Secondly, can any one of the signatories allow others to take possession of their movable or immovable property? If so, please let us know. Will the so-called self-proclaimed custodians of selfish interests of a globally reputed intellectual respond to our question honestly. And also, is this fair to destroy an institution of repute established by an equally well-known individual, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore? Visva-Bharati is immortal unlike the famous reputed individuals who zealously signed the petition to support a seemingly illegal act.

Today (21/07) is the date of hearing of the case in Siuri District Court that heard the lawyers of Prof. Sen on 15/07. By publishing the email signed by the so-called alarmed set of individuals on a day when the case shall be heard, the objective is very clear. We hope that the hon'ble court will take note of this to ascertain whether it can be identified as one of the acts of initiating a media trial.

Let's reiterate that we respect Prof. Sen as an academic and we are sure our legal system is robust enough to render justice. Visva-Bharati is committed to fight the battle legally to prove Visva-Bharati's rightful claim over the leasehold land. That's the heartfelt determination of those who love Gurudev Tagore and his brainchild, Visva-Bharati.



21-7-2023

Mahua Banerjee
In-charge, PRO
Visva-Bharati
Santiniketan

प्रभारी / In-charge
जनसम्पर्क / Public Relations
विश्वभारती / Visva-Bharati